

GUIDELINE B-15
(formerly 11-01)

Use and Storage of Pesticides
at Waterworks

Legislative Authority:

The Pesticides Act, RSO 1990, Section 4

The Ontario Water Resources Act, RSO 1990, Section 75(3)

Responsible Director:

Director, Standards Development Branch

Last Revision Date:

April, 1994

Table of Contents

1.0 DEFINITIONS

2.0 REQUIREMENTS

2.1 General

2.2 Tank Filling

3.0 EXEMPTIONS

3.1 Rodent Control

3.2 Public Health

3.3 Mechanical Devices

3.4 Exempted Premises

3.5 Notification

3.6 Posting

4.0 STORAGE FACILITIES

SYNOPSIS

This guideline seeks to control the use of pesticides at waterworks in the interests of protecting potable water supplies. It supports Guideline B-5: "Drinking Water Quality", which states that water for domestic use should be safe, palatable and aesthetically pleasing, and free from any disease-causing organisms or hazardous concentrations of chemicals or radioactive substances.

This guideline does not apply to materials used in the treatment of water to achieve and maintain potability.

1.0 Definitions**Waterworks:**

Waterworks means any works for the collection, production, treatment, storage, supply and distribution of water, or any part of such works, but does not include plumbing to which the *Building Code Act, 1992* applies.

Pesticide:

Any organism, substance or device used directly or indirectly to control, prevent, destroy, mitigate, attract or repel any pest, including: herbicides for use in the control of weeds; fungicides for the control of fungal organisms; insecticides for use in controlling lawn and garden insects and/or structural pests associated with the interior or exterior of waterworks facilities; and rodenticides for the control of rats or mice.

2.0 Requirements**2.1 General**

The application and storage of pesticides is prohibited around, over, or in the immediate vicinity of waterworks. Of prime importance are: those facilities where reservoirs are open to the air and are located out-of-doors; covered in-ground reservoirs; reservoirs located within structures and used for storage, flocculation or clarification processes; or any part of the facility where there are open water areas, or sites with water wells, tile fields for water collection, or springs located on the premises.

2.2 Tank Filling

The filling of private mixing tanks for pesticide application by personnel not employed by the water treatment facility is prohibited on the premises of the waterworks. The filling of such tanks from off-premise hydrants shall not be done without the use of an approved back-flow preventer device or anti-suction device between the water hydrant and the mixing tank.

3.0 Exemptions from Guidelines

3.1 Rodent Control

Exempt is the acceptable use of rodenticides for rat and mouse control within and around waterworks by a licensed structural exterminator, under the supervision of the waterworks operator.

3.2 Public Health

Exempt is the use of pest control products applied in the interest of public health under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* to control disease-causing pests, or the control of noxious weeds by an order issued under the *Weed Control Act*, or the use of chemical (micro-biological) agents for the control of microbes and bacteria. The application of all pest control products is to be carried out by a suitably licensed applicator.

3.3 Mechanical Devices

Exempt is the use of mechanical devices or apparatus which do not utilize any chemical agent.

3.4 Exempted Premises

Exempt is the use of pesticides on land or premises where there is no possibility of water contamination, such as elevated tanks, or premises where water is continuously under pressure and is enclosed in a pipe.

3.5 Notification

Where a water treatment facility is exempt, the plant operator will contact the Director under the *Pesticides Act* (Standards Development Branch) for approval, in writing, prior to the commencement of an extermination.

3.6 Posting

Posting is to be carried out in accordance with Regulation 914, Sections 64 to 79, under the *Pesticides Act*.

4.0 Storage Facilities

If pesticides are used under the exemptions outlined in Section 3.0, then the storage facility shall conform to Regulation 914, Sections 119 to 123, under the Pesticides Act.